UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, Ca. 94105

July 8, 1993

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Five-Year Review of North Hollywood Operable Unit, San Fernando Valley Superfund Site

FROM: Chris Stubbs
South Coast Groundwater Section, H-6-4

TO: San Fernando Valley Site File

I. INTRODUCTION

This five-year review is being conducted pursuant to the requirements of the comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), as amended, the National Contingency Plan (NCP) and "Structure and Components of Five-Year Reviews" (OSWER Directive 9355.7-02). The purpose of this five-year review is to evaluate whether the North Hollywood Interim Remedy is achieving the objectives specified in the North Hollywood Operable Unit Record of Decision (ROD).

II. BACKGROUND

The San Fernando Valley Superfund Site is a large area of groundwater contamination located in Los Angeles County, California. The Site was listed on the National Priorities List (NPL) in 1986 because trichloroethylene (TCE) and perchloroethylene (PCE) were found in groundwater production wells at levels exceeding the Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for these compounds.

In September 1987, EPA signed a ROD which selected a groundwater extraction and treatment system as the remedy for the North Hollywood Area. The objective of the North Hollywood Interim Remedy, as stated in the ROD, is to slow down the migration of the contamination plume at the North Hollywood-Burbank Well Field as an interim measure while the San Fernando Valley RI/FS is being performed. The ROD specifies that the Remedy will be run for fifteen years.

The Remedy was designed and constructed by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power through a cooperative agreement with EPA. Construction began immediately after the ROD was signed, and the Remedy began full-time operation in December 1989. A Remedial

Action Report dated July 1991 certified the completion of this remedial action.

The Remedy was constructed with eight shallow extraction wells and an aeration tower with a capacity of 2000 gallons per minute (gpm). After treatment the groundwater goes into the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power drinking water distribution system. The Remedy includes a granular activated carbon unit for removal of VOCs from the aeration tower off-gases.

III. PERFORMANCE

The Remedy has been operating continuously except for maintenance shut-downs for approximately three and one-half years. For most of that time, the system has operated at less than its full capacity of 2000 gpm, usually in range of 800-1700 gpm. This reduced amount of water treated is due to lower water levels in the area because of a long period of less-than-normal precipitation. EPA's effort to increase well production by increasing well efficiency was not successful.

According to the most recent plume and capture zone data, however, the Remedy is slowing the migration of the groundwater contamination even at the lower flow rates levels. This conclusion is based on preliminary results from EPA's North Hollywood groundwater flow model which is still being refined. A more detailed analysis of the capture zone and the overall effectiveness of the North Hollywood Interim Remedy will be conducted later this year after work on the flow model is completed. This analysis will be conducted as part of the basinwide feasibility study.

IV. CONCLUSION

The North Hollywood Interim Remedial Action is effectively achieving its objective as stated in the ROD. A more detailed analysis of its effectiveness and the need for further remedial action in the North Hollywood area will be performed as part of the basinwide feasibility study.